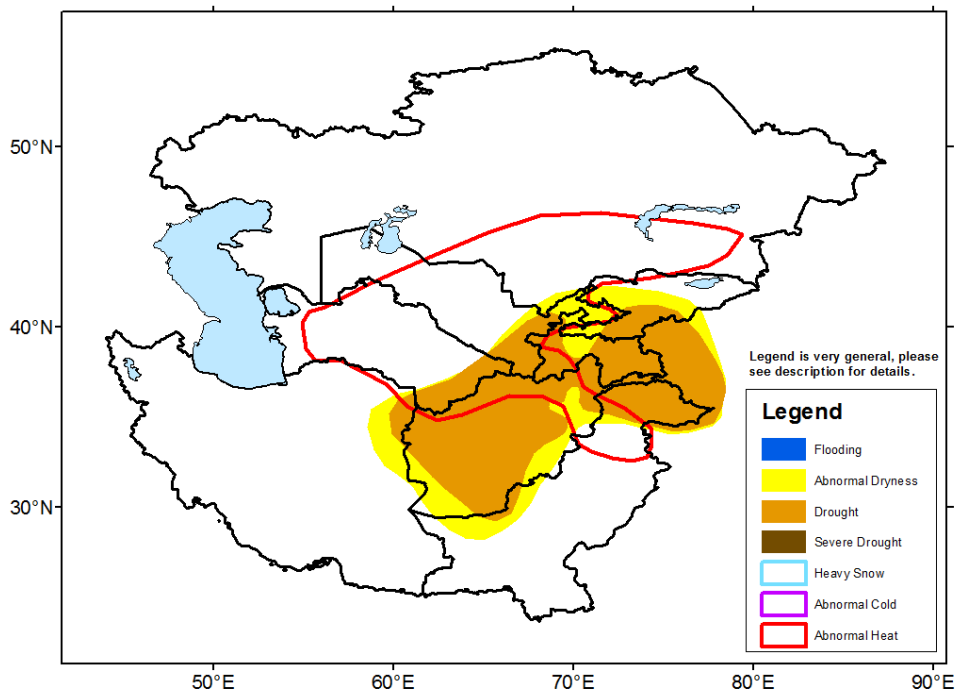
Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook
March 29 – April 4, 2018

Temperatures:

During the 4th week of March, much above normal temperatures remained the story for the majority of the region. Mean maximum temperatures were 6-12° Celsius above normal throughout large areas of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. Meanwhile, far northwestern Kazakhstan experienced cooler than average conditions. 30° Celsius maximum temperatures were recorded in Afghanistan and Uzbekistan. The abnormally warm air mass is expected to remain entrenched through the forecast period. Maximum temperatures may be more than 12° Celsius above normal in many central portions of the region where an abnormal heat hazard is posted. 30° Celsius highs may be occur as far north as southern Kazakhstan.

Precipitation

Widespread moderate to heavy precipitation (10-50+mm liquid equivalent) was observed across Kazakhstan during the last 7 days. Moderate and local heavy rain spread farther south across Afghanistan and Pakistan than the previous week. Precipitation in several dry areas of Central Asia continues to bring slow improvement; however, low snow water equivalent and large ninety-day precipitation deficits continue to persist over many portions of Central Asia. A drought hazard is posted over much of Afghanistan and portions of adjacent countries as the ongoing moisture deficits are likely to negatively impact crops over the coming months. During the outlook period, a swath of moderate precipitation is expected across Kazakhstan, while more significant precipitation (25-50+mm liquid equivalent) is forecast in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The GFS model also indicates dryer conditions over Afghanistan this coming week.



Note: The Hazards outlook map is based on current weather/climate information, short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week), and assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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